Daily Status basis in trade, hotel and restaurant sector (including retail trade) have been estimated at 38 million in 1999-2000 (55th round) and at 48 million in 2004-05 (61st round). As per data on percentage distribution of GDP by Economic Activity, Trade (including retail trade)accounted for 14.3 per cent of GDP in 2004-05. Data, however, are not available separately for retail sector.

Disinvestment of Central Public Sector Undertakings

782. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the objections raised by the various political parties over the disinvestment of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) Government is planning to revive the programme;

(b) if so, whether a white paper on how the disinvestment of CPSUs would be carried out, has been prepared by his Ministry and has been submitted for approval;

(c) whether Government has taken a firm decision to revive and is planning to go ahead with its earlier programme of making small disinvestments in CPSUs; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Policy of disinvestment of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) has been enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme. Government has decided, in principle, to list large, profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell small portions of equity in listed, profitable CPSEs (other than the navratnas)

(b) The White Paper on Disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises has been placed on the Table of Lok Sabha on 23rd November, 2007 and is proposed to be placed on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 2007.

(c) and (d) On 6th July 2006, Government decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold pending further rview, which is yet to be completed. Three Power companies, *viz.*: Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Limited, proposed to make public offerings of equity equal to 10% each of their pre-issue paid up equity capital. On 8th February, 2007, Government decided to piggy-back with an 'Offer for Sale' of 10%, 5% and 5% respectively out of its shareholding. The Initial Public Offering of PGCIL has been completed in the first week of October 2007.

On 30th August 2007 Government approved an Initial Public Offering by Oil India Ltd. (OIL) equal to 11% of its post-issue paid-up equity capital and simultaneous disinvestment of 10% of OIL's pre-issue paid up equity capital out of Government's shareholding in favour of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., in the ration of 2:1:1 respectively.

Enquiry into mismanagement of Unit-64

783. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of enquiry of officials involved in Unit-64 schemes mismanagement;

(b) whether the enquiry of all concerned officials had taken place through the CBI;

(c) if so, what is the status and whether there have been any recovery from these officials

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) How much total money has been paid by Government to recoup the deficit in Unit-64 scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Certain investment decisions concerning US-64 were examined by the internal Vigilance Cell as recommended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). CBI conducted the enquiry into purchase of some equity shares by erstwhile Unit Trust of India (UTI) and has filed charge sheet in special court for CBI cases against the concerned official. Civil suit has been filed by the Administrator of Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) and UTI Trustee Company Pvt. Ltd. (UTI Mutual Fund) against concerned ex-officials for claiming damages/compensation for the loss suffered by erstwhile UTI in respect of investment in some shares.

(e) Rs. 2393 crore was given by Government for meeting the shortfalls between assured repurchase prices and NAV of US-64.

Extension of area-based tax concessions

784. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area based tax concessions have been extended up to March 2010 for States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to extend the same benefits to the six districts of North Bengal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has presently no proposal to extend such benefits to the six districts of North Bengal region.

(c) The Government is not in favour of area based exemptions, as these create economic distortions affecting the economic viability of units located in non-exempted areas and result in shifting of industry from non-exempted to exempted areas. Such exemptions also lead to shrinkage of tax base and adversely affect buoyancy in revenue collections, apart from breaking the CENVAT chain. Durability of such investments beyond the exemption period is also doubtful.

Import duty on purified Terephthalic Acid and Paraxylene

785. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a request from the State Government of West Bengal to consider maintaining a spread of 10% per cent rates of import duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Paraxylene; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has not received any request from the State